

PATENT**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend or cancel claims as indicated in the Listing of Claims that will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1.(currently amended): An apparatus for creating a tamper-proof document, comprising:
- ~~an encoder for configured to digitally encoding encode a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information a handwritten signature; and~~
- a placement selector configured to select a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;
- an access selector configured to select a level of access for the encoded information;
- a processor configured to process, responsive to said access selector, the encoded information; and
- a printer configured to print the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as an area of glyph marks at the location.
- ~~a printer for creating a tamper proof document comprising the digitally encoded signature.~~
- 2.(currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tamper-proof document is a ~~third party~~third-party check.
- 3-4(canceled)
- 5.(currently amended): A method for creating a tamper-proof document, comprising:
- digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;

PATENT

selecting a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;

selecting a level of access for the encoded information;

processing, responsive to selecting the level of access, the encoded information; and

printing the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as an area of glyph marks at the location.

digitally encoding a handwritten signature; and

printing the tamper proof document comprising the digitally encoded signature.

6.(currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the tamper-proof document is a ~~third party~~third-party check.

7.(canceled)

8.(currently amended): The method of claim 7~~5~~, wherein the user-inputted portion is handwritten.

9.(currently amended): A method for ensuring that a document has not been altered, comprising:

digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;

selecting a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;

selecting a level of access for the encoded information;

processing, responsive to selecting the level of access, the encoded information;

PATENT

printing the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as an area of glyph marks at the location.

~~digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document;~~

~~printing the document comprising the encoded information;~~

decoding the encoded information as decoded information; and

comparing the decoded information with the user-inputted portion; and

identifying the document as altered, if the decoded information is not identical to the user-inputted portion.

10.(original): The method of claim 9, wherein the user-inputted portion is handwritten.

11.(original): The method of claim 9, wherein the decoded information is a graphical recreation of the user-inputted portion.

12.(currently amended): The method of claim 9, wherein the decoding step further comprises placing the document under a viewport of a lens apparatus, wherein the ~~viewport lens apparatus~~ converts the encoded information to decoded information.

13.(original): The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of superimposing the decoded information on the document.

14.(original): The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of displaying the decoded information outside of the document.

15-16.(canceled)

17.(currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for creating a tamper-proof document, the method comprising;

digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;

PATENT

selecting a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;

selecting a level of access for the encoded information;

processing, responsive to selecting the level of access, the encoded information; and

printing the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as an area of glyph marks at the location.

~~digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document; and~~

~~printing the tamper-proof document comprising the encoded information.~~

18.(original): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the user-inputted portion is handwritten.

19-29(canceled)

30.(new): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the tamper-proof document is a third-party check.